

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/633,480

Examiner

R. Alexander Smith

Applicant(s)

PHARO ET AL.

Art Unit

2859

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to a telephonic conversation with Mr. Schaap on October 3, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 33-49.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.132. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephonic interview with Mr. Robert J. Schaap on October 3, 2006.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

**In the claims:**

**Claim 33 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:**

33. A personnel guidance and location control system for guiding a group of walking pedestrian individuals into a line thereof in a relatively narrow pedestrian pathway and controlling movement thereof while advancing toward an activity at or beyond an end of a line position, said guidance and location control system comprising:
  - a) a ground cover substrate for disposition on a ground surface and having an upper surface thereon;

- b) at least one end of the line element associated with said upper surface of said cover substrate and in a fixed location thereon as an end of the line for a queue of the individuals;
- c) a pair of path forming guidance members associated with said upper surface of said cover substrate and on opposite sides of said substrate and in a fixed location thereon relative to the end of line element and extending from regions in proximity to opposite ends of the end of line element initially generally perpendicular to the end of the line element to form parallel pathway boundaries in a desired orientation which define a pathway of movement for the group of individuals;
- d) wait state indicia associated with the end of the line element defining the end of the line element as a location for a queue of said pedestrian individuals;
- e) at least one movement indicator element on said pathway of movement to indicate a movement direction in that pathway and which leads to the end of the line position, said upper surface of said substrate being relatively free of elements which would obstruct the prominence of the end of the line element, the wait state indicia, and the lines of path forming guidance members and the at least one movement indicator element so that the pathway is not visually obstructed;

- f) said substrate having a width and wherein said width of the substrate or the width of said parallel pathway boundaries or a combination thereof are arranged to cause movement of said group of pedestrian individuals into a line of individuals;
- g) means associated with said end of line element and path forming members for locating same with the cover substrate; and
- h) whereby the ground substrate having said at least one end of line element, said pair of discrete path forming guidance members, said width and said at least one movement indicator element form a means for queuing said group of pedestrian individuals into said line of individuals for movement to said at least said end of the line element having said wait state indicia;
- (i) said guidance and location control system being rollable for storage, light in weight to be immediately installable and sufficiently narrow to be used in confined locations.

**Claim 35 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:**

35. The personnel guidance and location control system of Claim 33 further characterized in that the means for locating comprises a fastening means associated with the underside of the end of line element and with the path forming guidance members, the underside of the small discrete path forming elements having means for securing same to said ground cover substrate.

**Claim 36 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:**

36. The personnel guidance and location control system of Claim 35 further characterized in that the fastening means associated with the underside of the end of the line element and the path forming guidance elements is an adhesive strip.

**Claim 37 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:**

37. The personnel guidance and location control system of Claim 35 further characterized in that the fastening means associated with the underside of the end of the line element and the path forming guidance elements is a downwardly projecting screw.

**Claim 40 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:**

40. The personnel guidance and location control system of Claim 33 further characterized in that the end of the line element and the path forming members are located on and appear on said upper surface of said substrate.

**Claim 41 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:**

41. The personnel guidance and location control system of Claim 33 comprising a plurality of said substrates, and having arrangement means associated with each of said substrates enabling said substrates to be arranged relative to one another with an end of one substrate abutted against or closely spaced to an end of a next adjacent substrate to form a desired orientation for that pathway and to avoid obstructions of an existing environment.

**Claim 42 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:**

42. A personnel guidance and location control system for guiding a group of pedestrian individuals into a pedestrian pathway and controlling movement thereof and to an activity at the end of that pathway, said guidance and location control system comprising:

- a) a plurality of ground cover substrates for disposition on a ground surface;
- b) at least one elongate end of a line element associated with an endmost of said cover substrates for securement at a fixed location thereon, said at least one elongate element comprising wait state indicia defining said fixed location as an end of a line for a queue of individuals;
- c) a pair of spaced apart rows of path forming members associated with said ground cover substrates in fixed locations relative to the elongate element and extending from opposite ends of the elongate

element creating a pair of spaced apart pathway boundaries to define the pedestrian pathway of movement for the queue of individuals;

- d) said substrates having a width and wherein said width of the substrates or the width of said pair of spaced apart pathway boundaries or a combination thereof are adapted to arrange said group of pedestrian individuals into a line of individuals;
- e) at least one movement indicator element on said pathway between the spaced apart pathway boundaries, said at least one movement indicator indicating a direction of movement along the pathway to the elongate element and the end of a line position defined thereby and to a destination in advance of that end of the line position;
- f) means associated with said elongate element and said path forming members for locating same with the ground cover substrates, whereby the ground cover substrates and elongate element and path forming members can be located on the ground surface and arranged in a desired orientation to conform to an existing environment so as to optimize use of pedestrian walking space in that existing environment;
- g) said ground cover substrates have end margins on said substrates so that one substrate is capable of being arranged in abutting

relationship with another substrate to define the pedestrian pathway for the queue of individuals;

- h) whereby the substrates having the at least one elongate element, the spaced apart rows of path forming members, said width and said elongate element and said at least one movement indicator form a means for queuing the pedestrian individuals into a line of such individuals for moving them along said substrate and to the elongate end of a line element having the wait state indicia, the guidance and location control system constitutes a complete and self-contained system which is sufficient to induce pedestrian personnel to enter into the pathway and to follow the pathway; and
- i) said guidance and location control system being usable in confined locations and which also does not constitute an interference for un-ambulatory individuals allowing them to use the system and further does not constitute a visual obstruction, thereby effectively and efficiently controlling movement of a large number of pedestrian individuals.



**Claim 48 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:**

48. The personnel guidance and location control system of Claim 42 further characterized in that the path forming members each comprise a plurality of small discrete path forming elements.

**Claim 49 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:**

49. A method for guiding a group of walking pedestrian individuals into a line thereof in a relatively narrow pedestrian pathway and controlling movement thereof to an activity in advance of that end of the line position, said method comprising:

- a) providing a ground cover substrate and locating same on a ground surface and said substrate having an upper surface thereon;
- b) providing on said substrate an end of the line element defining an end of a line position on the ground cover substrate for the group of walking pedestrian individuals and representing a waiting location on said upper surface for the individual at the front end of the line;
- c) providing wait state indicia defining the end of the line for a queue of the individuals;
- d) providing side margins defining the pathway of movement with a pair of discrete path forming guidance members on said upper surface of said cover substrate and on opposite sides of said

substrate and in a fixed location thereon relative to the end of line element and extending from regions in proximity to opposite ends of the end of line element and generally perpendicular to the end of the line element, said pathway of movement having a width sufficient to arrange said group of pedestrian individuals into a line of individuals;

- e) at least one movement indicator element on said pathway of movement between the spaced apart pathway side margins and providing a direction of movement to the end of a line position;
- f) establishing a width of said substrate and wherein said width of the substrate or the width of said pathway side margins or a combination thereof are adapted to arrange said group of pedestrian individuals into a line of individuals; and
- g) whereby the ground cover substrate having the end of the line element, said path forming guidance members, said width, and said at least one movement indicator cause a queuing of said group of pedestrian individuals into said line of individuals along said substrate to said end of the line element having said wait state indicia.

*Examiner's Comment and Notes*

4. In review of the Applicant's remarks on starting on page 19 to page 20 line 6, and specifically with respect to the telephonic conversations during the week of March 27, 2006 it is noted that an interview summary was written by Examiner Smith for application 10/635,871 mailed on April 19, 2006. This interview summary, which was also applicable to 10/633,480 and to 09/758,934, was written in order to help clarify and convey a rough idea or starting point for the claim construction for all three applications. It is emphasized that this interview summary was only intended to clarify and convey a rough idea or starting point.

5. In review of the Applicant's remarks on starting on page 21 line 7 regarding Examiner Smith's concern that each of the applications 10/633,480, 10/635,871 and 09/758,934 as being patentably distinct. This concern was originally address in the Office action for 10/633,480 mailed on October 20, 2006 since the claims for all three application were being amended using similar claim language. Examiner Smith in the telephonic conversations during the week of March 27, 2006 was concerned and wanted to clarify that any amendments submitted should address this concern. The Applicant's discussion starting on page 21 line 13 has clarified that the claims are patentably distinct. Furthermore, Examiner Smith has reviewed the amended claims for all three applications and agrees that they are patentably distinct.

*Reasons for Allowance*

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance of claims 33-49.

For independent claim 33 the prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest a personnel guidance and location control system comprising:

a) a ground cover substrate for disposition on a ground surface and having an upper surface thereon;

b) at least one end of the line element

c) a pair of path forming guidance members;

d) wait state indicia associated with the end of the line element defining the end of the line element as a location for a queue of said pedestrian individuals;

e) at least one movement indicator element;

f) said substrate having a width;

h) whereby the ground substrate having said at least one end of line element, said pair of discrete path forming guidance members, said width and said at least one movement indicator element form a means for queuing said group of pedestrian individuals into said line of individuals for movement to said at least said end of the line element having said wait state indicia;

in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Claims 34-41 recite limitations which, in combination with allowed claim 33, render the dependent claims allowable.

For independent claim 42 the prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest a personnel guidance and location control system comprising:

- a) a plurality of ground cover substrates;
- b) at least one elongate end of a line element associated with an endmost of said cover substrates for securement at a fixed location thereon, said at least one elongate element comprising wait state indicia defining said fixed location as an end of a line for a queue of individuals;
- c) a pair of spaced apart rows of path forming members;
- d) said substrates having a width and wherein said width of the substrates or the width of said pair of spaced apart pathway boundaries or a combination thereof are adapted to arrange said group of pedestrian individuals into a line of individuals;
- e) at least one movement indicator element;
- h) whereby the substrates having the at least one elongate element, the spaced apart rows of path forming members, said width and said elongate element and said at least one movement indicator form a means for queuing the pedestrian individuals into a line of such individuals for moving them along said substrate and to the elongate end of a line element having the wait state indicia;

in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Claims 43-48 recite limitations which, in combination with allowed claim 42, render the dependent claims allowable.

For independent claim 49 the prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest a method for guiding a group of walking pedestrian individuals into a line thereof in a relatively narrow pedestrian pathway and controlling movement thereof to an activity in advance of that end of the line position, said method comprising:

- a) providing a ground cover substrate;
- b) providing on said substrate an end of the line element defining an end of a line position on the ground cover substrate for the group of walking pedestrian individuals and representing a waiting location on said upper surface for the individual at the front end of the line;
- c) providing wait state indicia defining the end of the line for a queue of the individuals;
- d) providing side margins defining the pathway of movement;
- e) at least one movement indicator element on said pathway of movement between the spaced apart pathway side margins;
- f) establishing a width of said substrate and wherein said width of the substrate or the width of said pathway side margins or a combination thereof are adapted to arrange said group of pedestrian individuals into a line of individuals; and
- g) whereby the ground cover substrate having the end of the line element, said path forming guidance members, said width, and said at least one movement indicator cause a

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queuing of said group of pedestrian individuals into said line of individuals along said substrate to said end of the line element having said wait state indicia;

in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*

7. The prior art made of record is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. The prior art cited in PTO-892 disclose related systems and methods.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to R. Alexander Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-2251. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30-6:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F. Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Alexander Smith', with a stylized, flowing script.

R. Alexander Smith  
Primary Examiner  
Technology Center 2800

RAS  
October 3, 2006